



Chancroid Fact Sheet

Caused by *Haemophilus ducreyi*

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

Symptoms begin 3 to 10 days of exposure.

Classic Chancre (ulcer):

- Ragged or eroded edges
- Pus filled/dirty base
- Moderate to severely painful
- Soft to the touch

Symptoms in women include:

- Chancre, frequently goes unnoticed
- Pain during urination
- Pain during defecation
- Rectal bleeding
- Painful sexual intercourse
- Vaginal discharge

Symptoms in men include:

- Chancre, usually very painful
- Inguinal tenderness
- Painful lymph glands in groin area, usually only on one side

TRANSMISSION

Chancroid infections are transmitted through:

- Sexual transmission occurs during skin on skin contact with open ulcer
- Autoinoculation (infection of other non-sexually involved sites, like the eye or fingers) can occur with contact of pus from ulcer

COMPLICATIONS/CONSEQUENCES

If untreated Chancroid infections may result in:

- Increased risk for acquiring HIV infection
- The lymph node glands on one side of the body become enlarged, hard, painful, and fuse together to form a bubo. Surgical drainage may be needed to relieve pain.
- Ruptured buboes are susceptible to secondary bacterial infections
- In uncircumcised males, new scar tissue can result in the foreskin being unable to be retracted over the glands.

PREVENTION

- Abstain from sexual contact
- Early treatment of any STDs
- Mutual monogamy
- Latex Condoms for vaginal, oral, and anal sex. Note: Condoms will protect the penis or vagina from infection, but will not protect other areas like the scrotum or anal area.
- Take all medications prescribed for Chancroid even if you stop having symptoms.

TREATMENT

Treatment should include medication prescribed by a health care provider. It is dependent on what 'germ' is causing the infection. See treatment recommendations for BV, yeast infection, and trichomoniasis.

- Antibiotics such as:
Azithromycin, Ceftriaxone, Ciprofloxacin (not recommended for pregnant women or individuals under 18 yrs), or Erythromycin base.
- A follow-up exam should be conducted 3 to 7 days after treatment begins.

Note: Re-infection is possible after treatment.

Contact Information:

For more information pertaining to Florida clinical services, sites, and treatment recommendations please visit us on the web at http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/std/clinical/clinical.html.

National HIV, AIDS and STD Hotline
1-800-342-2437 or 1-800-227-8922

Spanish
1-800-227-8922

Deaf and Hard of Hearing
1-800-243-7889